

Executive Order No. 33-2006

EXECUTIVE ORDER ESTABLISHING THE MONTANA HORSE RACING TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, the horse racing industry in Montana has been beneficial to agriculture, business and local communities in years past, but is now suffering a steep decline in participation; and

WHEREAS, horse owners, jockeys, stewards, other track workers, county governments and the public have expressed a desire to find solutions to declining participation in the horse racing industry; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Horseracing is statutorily limited to regulatory functions assigned to it by state law and does not have a direct promotional role ; and

WHEREAS, a forum for exploring Montana's horse racing industry's problems and solutions is appropriate ;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Brian Schweitzer, Governor of the State of Montana, by virtue of the authority vested in me under the laws and the Constitution of the State of Montana, do hereby establish the Montana Horse Racing Task Force ("Task Force").

I. PURPOSE AND DUTIES

The purpose of the Task Force is to:

- examine the historical records, current situation and future trends of the horse racing industry in Montana;
- identify current impediments to the industry's vitality in Montana; and
- advise the Office of Economic Development as to whether specific measures could be undertaken to revitalize Montana's horse racing industry including but not limited to promotional, legal, regulatory, and financial measures.

In performing its work, the Task Force shall look at the roles of state government, local government, and the private sector in Montana's horse racing industry and make recommendations as to whether, and how, those roles could be adjusted or enhanced in order to revitalize the industry. In performing its work, the Task Force shall consult with individuals familiar with Montana's horse racing industry, including but not limited to the Board of Horse Racing, county officials, fairgrounds officials, managers, horse owners, jockeys, stewards, other

track workers and members of the public. The Task Force may also review and consider the horse racing industries in other states.

II. COMPOSITION

The Task Force shall consist of not more than 10 members, appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Governor. The Governor shall name the chair of the Task Force. The names and addresses of the Task Force members shall be submitted by separate letter to the Secretary of State and the Office of Economic Development.

The Task Force is attached to the Office of Economic Development for administrative purposes. The Office and other Departments of state government that have an interest in the horse racing industry shall assist the Task Force by providing staff assistance. Staff assistance will be limited to organizing and scheduling meetings for the Task Force and helping in the preparation of a final report.

III. COMPENSATION

Task Force members shall be volunteers and will not be compensated for their time as provided in § 2-15-122(5), except that all members shall be reimbursed for travel expenses pursuant to § 2-15-122(5), MCA.

IV. DURATION

The Council shall terminate on December 31, 2006. This Order is effective immediately.

GIVEN under my hand and the GREAT SEAL of the State of Montana this _____ day of April, 2006.

BRIAN SCHWEITZER, Governor

ATTEST:

BRAD JOHNSON, Secretary of State